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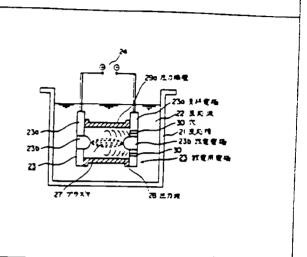
Nuclear fusion producing appts. - has partition wall for controlling pressure of pressure-waves, around under-water plasma discharge region

C91-101452

In a nuclear fusion producing appts, comprising a reaction vessel In a nuclear rusion producing appts, comprising a reaction vessel (21) filled with a reaction liq. (22) such as heavy water, a pair of electric discharge electrodes (23), and a control power supply for supplying a pulse voltage to the electrodes, and in which nuclear fusion is caused by deuterium ions produced by applying the puise voltage and by the pressure-waves (28) produced by underwater plasma discharge; a partition wall (29a) for controlling the pressure of the pressure-waves is provided around the underwater plasma (27)

discharge region.
USE/ADVANTAGE - Used for a nuclear fusion reactor other than the conventional tokamak type thermal reactor. The cross-sectional area of the D-D (deuterium-deuterium) nuclear reaction can be increased, thus a high yield of neutrons can be obtd. (6pp

Dwg.No.1/5)



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審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全方面)

会発明の名称 核融合発生装置

> 2)特 頭 平1-288024

23出 顧 平1(1989)11月7日

何柔 82 老 大 盃 8 创出 頭 大 盇 豊 88

神奈川県横浜市鶴見区馬場7丁目26-13

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1. 発明の名称 技融合発生装置

2. 特許請求の疑問

重水を皮皮物質とする皮応波を充填した反応機 と、この反応接内に配数した1対の故電用電値と、 この1対の放電用電道にパルス電圧を供給する料 御電器とを育し、前記1分の放電局電腦に前記パ ルス電圧を印加して生ずる重水県イオンの発生と さらに水中プラズマ放電によって生ずる圧力波に よって複雑合反応を起させる複雑合発生装置にお いて、

上記圧力波の圧力制御用の陽登線連体を上記水 中プラズマ政電領域の課題に配設したことを特徴 とする核聯合発生装置。

3. 発明の非細な説明

【虚業上の利用分野】

この発明は技能合発生装置に関し、特に従来の 真空と他力組場による接動合プラズで閉じ込め方 式の無役反応形性融合がから親雄した職便な新し

い核酸合発生装置に関するものである。 〔従来の技術〕

従来、大規模集中形エキルギシステムの代表的 な未来の新エネルギ技術として水年によって技能 合が研究されてきた。しかし、トカマク万式と呼 ばれる方式をはじめとする狭隘合併による無核能 合反応の制御は極限技術や高度なハイテフノロジ 一の鬼騒があってはじめて可能であり、沒用化ま でにはなお、かなりの期間と異大な費用を表する ことが推議されており、その近い作業の実用課金 は漸く症臓的な疑問を呈するに至っている。

このような情勢下において、最近、1989年3月 23日、フイナンシャルタイムズに 免疫されたフラ イシュマンとポンズによる仮造の報道以来、値火 の電気分析による常温技能会の研究が関する。ほど、 明記無接職者装置とは比較にならない 装置の物便 性に対する魅力も手伝って世界的な研究プームの 展開されている代表である。これらのほぶ内でに ついては新聞手のトピックス記事として活覧の片 定・百定面とともにセンセイショナルに発達され

ている政権であるので、ここではその説明は省略 する。なお、上記のような意気分解法では中性子 量の収益は1秒両当り0.3 個性度である。

٠.

ところが、科学朝日(7月号) [898 P.109に構 載された記事によれば、 [989年4月下旬になって、 イタリア・フラスカッチ研究所のグループが電気 分解を使わずに振めて登的な方法で低温推動合を 起こさせることに成功したという論文を開示して いる。

乗う図はこの文献に示された実験政権の低ます。 を会装室の構成政明図である。図においっ2を置き、 パルプ4、5を開いて見空ポンプ3で排気を含め、 ついで、パルプ4を閉じてパルプ6を調き食水 カスポンペイクを開じて水水ガスを選り、 ガスポンペイクを設ませる。 ガスポンペイクを設まる水 がおて変視しながら最終的には50気圧をでいた 十分にまま10を充填した冷却タンク9にストランス 環容器1を提し、図示しないパルプ5、6を開ま で温度調度質量で液体管量度で158 での単衡 度に達するまで冷却し、チチン2に世末者がスが 冷却弱よりさらに吸着されたことを確認する。さ らに受着が進行したことは圧力がより低下するこ とから知られる。なお、11は固示しない計数監理 に登聴する中性子検出温であり、スチンレス調容 書1の際に配置されている。もし0~り度む(D は豊木素原子核)による被離合が反応したときは、 中性子が発生するから中性子検出器(11の出力が増 大して計数されるようになっている。

以上の調成と状態において、液体室常が直発するにまかせておくとチタン2の温度も操々に重量に近くなるまでに上昇するが、チタン2の温度が上がってゆく途中で、パックグランドの35倍という多量の中性子が発生したことが観測された。また、この実験性を一寸変えて、健水鬼を吸わなった。テタン2を具空中に置き、同様の実験、すなにもらどは重量によらに収益が増大し、パックブランドの508 借もの中性子発生が創定されたとされている。

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上記の実験の結果は、最近話題となった前途の電気分解を行うこともなく、単に意水常がスの圧力や温度を上げたり下げたりするだけで大量の中性子が発生したことを示すもので、現代では常めたはずれの成果というはかなく、その異偽を確めたくなる最の食業な佐日すべき実験結果とみなされるものである。

[発明が解決しようとする深淵]

この発明は上記の点に載みてなされたもので、 意水の電気分解という従来の手段のみに拘足する ことなく、また上記のような温度及び圧力の変化 という新しい手段を使用することなく、単に従来 の強電実験的な手段のみによって複融合を介わせ る複融合発生装置を提供することを目的とするも のである。

【混濫を解決するための手段】

の反応体は上記の数電用電道の一層であってもよく、また上記の圧力隔壁を構成する構造体そのものであってもよい。

【作用】

この免明においては、虚水を含む反応を中に1 対の数電用電腦を配致し、この電腦間にバルス高 電圧を印加して水中プラズマ数電を起こすが、こ のプラズマ類域を数圏ひように、プラズマ数電に 付開する圧力波を制御する圧力陽型を設けている から、圧力陽型のない場合に比べて圧力波の圧力 をさらに増大させ、重水素原子技同志の接触合反 のを促進させる。

すなわち、このプラズマ放電によって量水 D 2 O から重水素イオンが発生し、その原生じる 増大された圧力液によってこの重水素イオンすな わち重水素(質 D (² 1 H *) が水素板着性のよいな 持電緩衝又は圧力隔壁面に吸着し、その確に重水 素原子被 D 同志間の衝突(非保性衝突)反応を促 連させ、よく知られた下足(1) 式又は(2) 式 の るいは(1)・(2) 式の同時反応が通行し接触合反応

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予慮して過常水で着択した豊水からなるものであ ってもよく、あるいは電解質を少量溶解した温度 水との混合液であってもよい。皮密液22中には1 対の故電用電腦21を所定の間隔をもって対称的に 対向するよう配置し、その上部から電子24を取出 して電腦目にパルス高電圧を印油するようになっ ている。1対の故電局電腦23はチタンやパラジウ ム等の水素に対して吸着文は吸媒性のよい金質か うなる実際電腦214 と、タングステン。タンタル のような高融点金属からなる放電電道 tib とがっ 体形成により構成されている。一対の放電電腦 236 が対向する側は単鉄画体で形成されており、 この形状は棒状又は平面状であってもよく環定さ れないが、できるだけ均質かつ再見性のよい水中 プラズマ放電が得られる形状であることが望まし い。この推構型のギャップは約3回を基準として 尼思される。また、反応被ttの内又は外にはパル ス放送のノイズその他に対して電気シールドの良 好な団景しない中性子精出層が配致され、反応生 近物の中性子童を計劃するようになっている。

が上記圧力階型のない場合よりより多く発生する と考えられる。ここで、下は三世末倉庫子被 (トリチウム)、 n は中性子、 p は陽子 (水金の原子 核) を示す。

$$D + D \rightarrow {}^{1}H e + n \qquad \cdots (t)$$

$$D+D+T+p = -(2)$$

これらの反応において、放動合反応が発生したか 各かは n 又はp を検出することで確認するように なっているが、現状では n を中性子検出置で計解 する方法が使用される。

(実施例)

第3回はこの免明による技能合先生复選の無理 的なもの、すなわち圧力延受の環境体を有しない 場合の一質範囲を示す過去説明因である。また、 第4回は第3回の質範側装置を駆動するバルス電 圧発生用の制御電風の一定施門を示す回路回である。

第3回において、反応時21には重水を反応物質 (維料)とする反応度22が充填されている。反応 度24は純重水であることが好ましいがほぼ性を

- s -

以上のようには成された注動合発生装置において、可能選予24にパルス選圧が印加されると、文を表記の機能能域が放電電腦236 間で起こり、大中のプラズマ23が発生して例えばコンディナ25のCi にを聞きれた電荷がパルス放電となって消費

第1回はこの発明による技能合発生装置の一覧 施例を示す模式新面図である。図において、21~ 27は第3回、第4回の実施費で用いた符号と同一 又は相当部分を示し、その説明を省略する。28 a は例えば円質状の繊維性化プラスチック(FRP ともいう)からなる圧力隔壁であり、1対の故電 用電腦 21の部分を含んで放電電腦 21% を取りかこの場合 F R P は故電用電腦 22回の絶縁を行い、かつ同時に放電用電腦 21% の円費 25% の円費 25% の円費 25% の円費 25% の円費 25% の対電電腦 23% の故電電腦 23% の以電電器 25% の可聞に決定する。この対象に対して重要な役目を集す1 個以上の穴10が変けられている。なお、F R P からなる圧力 25% 用の構造体はそれ自身上記の圧力 地大による破裂に耐える強度と構造をもつように形成される必要があることはいうまでもない。

第1 間のような頃成において、電極電子24年介して放電用電極23に所定のパルス電圧を印加すると、放電電極235 間で水中プラズマ放電が起りプラズマ21が発生する。プラズマ21によって反応収22の電水から解離して生じた重水素原子液(イオン状態の電水素原子) D は電界により加速されて負極の万へ退行するとともに、圧力解量23m の供い場

- 11 -

合の圧力より大きい圧力を得た圧力放14によって 加速され圧力 勾配の大きい穴 30の方へ 選択的に 行し、チェン等からなる支持電極 23mm の面に 効率 よく衝突してトラップされ、その場所で食水 常原 子被同志の D - D 反応を高めるようになる。 その 納無得られた中性子収率は第3個の場合より的一 所向上を示した。

第2回はこの発明による他の実施費を示す構成 断面関である。第2回の実施費においては、圧力 隔壁29bを円度状のチャン材で領域したものであ り、放電用電腦28とは他特な絶球材31を介しして一 体値立てを行い、この圧力解数29aをDーD反応 面とするものである。このため、第1回、第3回 の実施費のように支持電腦23aの表面は必ずでも チャン材などで構成する必要はなく、過常の金属 では成している。また、この構成においては、う で構成している。また、この構成においては、う で構成している。なな圧力に 合の1/10程度に狭めることが可能なような配置に なっている。なお圧力隔壁29bはアース電位と - 12 -

てもよいが、より望ましくは中点アースとし、印 加電圧の1/2 すなわち中点電圧をアース電位としてもよい。そして、圧力陽型295 には、第1 25の 実施例と同様の目的で、プラズマ27の発生所域の 血糖に穴18a を設けている。

第2間の構成においては、プラズマ21による圧力後28は固に示したようにプラズマ21の方向とはは直角方向に放射されるので、プラズマ21で生じた重水素原子核Dは電界及び圧力度26、上として圧力減28により加速され穴30aの方向に延行して圧力隔型29bのチタン型で311型の場合と同様に効率よく核動台が行われる。

以上のほか、この発明による接触合発生質度の 接触合の高熱物準の応用として、反応性に 株交換 固を輸込み、皮関電力を用いてコンデンサ また質 して本質量を作動をせることにより、 電力 電気 で 電化ノロードレベリング) の頃に沿って 声く 基 まなるで 本温中その他の電力貯蔵数線への利用が そくられる。

[発明の効果]

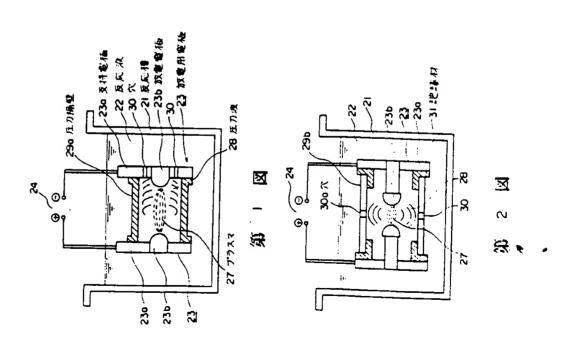
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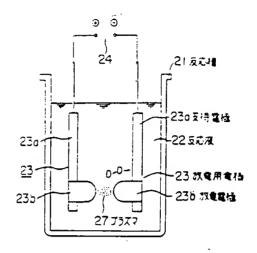
4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1回はこの発明の一実施例を示す模式順面図、 第2回はこの発明の他の実施例を示す模式順面図、 第3回はこの発明の技能合為生業間の展型的ならの の、すなわらこの発明による圧力編型をもたない 場合の一実施例を示す模式順図、第4回は禁忌 を駆動する制御電視の回路図、第5回は支配である。 図において、21は反応権、22は反応液、21は1 対の放電用電板。 23a は支持電板。 23b は放電電板。 24は電板板子。 25はコンデンサ、 24は切替スイッチ。 27はブラズマ。 28は圧力度、 25a, 25b は 圧力隔壁、 30,30aは穴、 31は絶縁制である。

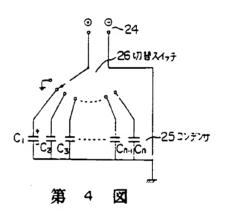
代理人 弁理士 佐ヶ木 滾 治

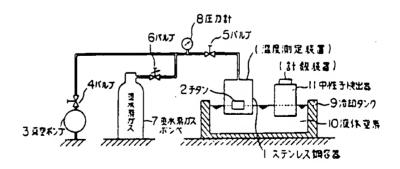
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第 3 図





第 5 図

Code: PTO 94-313

JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE PATENT JOURNAL KOKAI PATENT APPLICATION No. HEI 3[1991]-150494

Int. Cl.⁵:

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Sequence Nos. for Office Use:

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No. of Claims:

1 (Total of 6 pages)

Examination Request:

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NUCLEAR FUSION GENERATOR [Kakuyuqohatsusei sochi]

Inventor:

Toyoaki Omori

Applicant:

Toyoaki Omori

[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Claim

1. A type of nuclear fusion generator characterized by the following facts: the nuclear fusion generator has a reaction vessel filled with a reaction liquid with heavy water used as the reactant, a pair of discharge electrodes set in the aforementioned reaction vessel, and a control power source which provides pulse voltage to the aforementioned pair of electrodes;

the nuclear fusion reaction takes place due to formation of deuterium ions and the pressure wave caused by the underwater plasma discharge as the aforementioned pulse voltage is applied on the aforementioned pair of discharge electrodes;

a pressure-isolating structural body for controlling the pressure of the aforementioned pressure wave is set in the periphery of the aforementioned underwater plasma discharge region.

Detailed explanation of the invention

Application field in industry

This invention concerns a type of nuclear fusion generator. More specifically, this invention concerns a novel type of nuclear fusion generator with a simple configuration that is different from the conventional thermonuclear fusion reactor using vacuum and high magnetic field to confine the nuclear fusion plasma.

Prior art

For a long time, research has been performed on the nuclear fusion technology as the future energy source in the form of a large scale concentrated energy system. However, for the Tokamak program and other nuclear fusion reactors, the thermonuclear fusion reaction can be realized only by using a combination of limit technologies and high level high technologies, and a long time and a huge investment are needed before they can be used in

practical operation. At present, people are pessimistic about this conventional of nuclear fusion generator.

Recently, since publication on March 23, 1989 in the Financial Times of the report of the results obtained by Fleischman [transliteration] and Vance, great interest has been put into the study of room temperature nuclear fusion by the electrolysis of heavy water. As this method has the advantage of simplicity as compared with the aforementioned conventional nuclear fusion apparatus, many research institutions are studying it in the world. There are, nevertheless, both positive and negative responses to the results reported for the technical contents in the form of news and special topics. There are also sensational reports appearing in this field. We will not go into details in this respect. Also, in the aforementioned electrolysis method, the neutron yield is about 0.3/sec.

On the other hand, as reported in a paper published in Kagaku Asahi (July issue), 1898 [sic], p. 109, it seem that in late April 1989, a group at Frascati Laboratory, Italy, has succeeded in producing low temperature nuclear fusion using a very static method instead of the electrolysis method.

Figure 5 is a diagram illustrating the configuration of the low temperature nuclear fusion apparatus disclosed in the aforementioned reference. As shown in the figure, 100 g of titanium (2) are set in a stainless steel container (1). Valves (4) and (5) are opened, and the container is evacuated with a vacuum pump (3). Then, valve (4) is closed and valve (6) is opened, and deuterium gas is fed slowly from a gas cylinder (7). Under monitoring with a pressure gauge (8), the pressure is increased finally to 50 atm, and deuterium is sufficiently

adsorbed on titanium (2). Then, stainless steel container (1) is dipped in a cooling tank (9) filled with liquid nitrogen (10). After valves (5) and (6), not shown in the figure, are closed, cooling is performed until the temperature decreases to an equilibrium temperature of -196°C, as monitored by a temperature measurement unit. It is confirmed that more deuterium gas is adsorbed on titanium (2) than before the cooling operation. The further adsorption is revealed by the decrease in the pressure. (11) represents a neutron detector connected to a counter that is not shown in the figure. It is set on the side of stainless steel container (1). If the nuclear fusion reaction takes place due to the D-D reaction (where D represents the deuterium nuclei), the output of neutron detector (11) increases, and the result is counted.

When the liquid nitrogen evaporates and is lost in the aforementioned configuration of equipment, the temperature of titanium (2) gradually increases to near room temperature. During the increase in the temperature of titanium (2), a large amount of neutrons, as many as 35 times the background level, are observed. When the aforementioned experiment in amended a little by setting titanium (2) for adsorption of deuterium is a vacuum while the same experiment is performed, that is, the system is first cooled to the temperature of liquid nitrogen and then let to return to room temperature slowly, the yield of neutrons formed is further increased, and the number of neutrons formed is 500 times that of the background.

The results of the aforementioned experiment indicate that, instead of the aforementioned electrolysis method, by simply increasing and decreasing the pressure and temperature of the

deuterium gas, a large amount of neutrons can be generated. However, this is outside the present common knowledge, and if it can be confirmed as true, it will become a precious experimental result.

Problems to be solved by the invention

The aforementioned low temperature nuclear fusion generator may be able to replace the conventional nuclear fusion reactor. However, at present, it is only in the stage of initial development, and it is believed to be a technology not directly related to the topics to be solved in this invention. What should be taken as the topics include the study on the method to increase the output for nuclear fusion using the electrolysis method, as the yield of neutrons is very low for the conventional scheme shown in Figure 5.

This invention is made in consideration of the aforementioned problems. Instead of being restricted to the conventional method of electrolysis of heavy water, and instead of the aforementioned new method using a change in the temperature and pressure, this invention has a purpose in providing a type of nuclear fusion generator that only makes use of the means adopted in the conventional high voltage experiment to perform nuclear fusion.

Means for solving the problems

This invention provides a type of nuclear fusion generator characterized by the following facts: the nuclear fusion

generator has a reaction vessel filled with a reaction liquid with heavy water used as the reactant, a pair of discharge electrodes set in the aforementioned reaction vessel, and a power source which provides high pulse voltage to the aforementioned pair of discharge electrodes; the nuclear fusion of the deuterium nucleus-deuterium nucleus (D-D) reaction takes place due to formation of deuterium ions (2H+) and the pressure wave caused by the underwater plasma discharge as the aforementioned pulse voltage is applied to the aforementioned pair of discharge electrodes. A pressure-isolating structural body for controlling the pressure generated in the aforementioned underwater plasma discharge is set in the periphery of the plasma region of the electric discharge electrodes. In this case, the reaction body on which the nuclear fusion takes place for the deuterium nuclei under impact by the electric discharge field and the pressure wave should at least have its surface portion made of a metal with a high adsorptivity for hydrogen (such as titanium). reaction body may be a portion of the aforementioned electric discharge electrodes, or it may be the structural body used to form the aforementioned pressure-isolating body.

Functions

According to this invention, a pair of electric discharge electrodes are set in the reaction liquid containing heavy water, and underwater plasma discharge takes place in the region between the electric discharge electrodes as a high pulse voltage is applied between these electrodes. As a pressure-isolating

structural body for controlling the pressure wave accompanying the plasma discharge is set, the pressure of the pressure wave can be further increased beyond that when there is no such pressure-isolating structural body. Consequently, the nuclear fusion between the deuterium nuclei can be promoted.

That is, in this plasma discharge, deuterium ions are formed from heavy water, D_2O ; due to the pressure wave generated in this case, the deuterium ions, that is, the deuterium nuclei D(21H+), are adsorbed on the surface of the supporting electrodes or the pressure-isolating structural body with a high hydrogen absorptivity. In this case, a collision (inelastic collision) between the deuterium nuclei, D, takes place, and the nuclear fusion reaction takes place through following formula (1) or formula (2), or through both formulas (1) and (2). The probability of this nuclear fusion is believed to be higher than that when there is no pressure-isolating structural body. In this case, T represents tritium nuclei, T represents neutrons, and T represents protons (hydrogen nulcei).

$$D + D = {}^{1}H + n = -(1)$$

 $D + D = T + p = -(2)$

Whether or not the nuclear fusion takes place in these reactions can be checked by detecting n or p. At present, the plan is to detect n by means of a neutron detector.

Application examples

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a prototype of the nuclear fusion generator of this invention, with a pressure-isolating structural body. Figure 4 is a circuit diagram illustrating an application example of the control power source for generating the pulse voltage for driving the equipment shown in Figure 3.

As shown in Figure 3, reaction liquid (22) with heavy water as the reactant (fuel) is filled in a reaction vessel (21). Although it is good to have pure heavy water as reaction liquid (22), in consideration of the cost, the reaction liquid is usually made of a mixture of water and heavy water, which may be added with a small amount of electrolyte. In reaction liquid (22), a pair of discharge electrodes (23) are set symmetrically opposite to each other with a prescribed distance between them, and with terminals (24) set on them for application of a high pulse voltage between the electrodes. Said pair of discharge electrodes (23) have an integrated configuration made of supporting electrodes (23a) made of titanium, palladium or some other metal that can adsorb or absorb hydrogen well, and electric discharge electrodes (23b) made of tungsten, tantalum, or some other high-melting metal. Said pair of electric discharge electrodes (23b) are in the form of spherical bodies set facing each other. The shape, however, may also be rod or planar, and there is no special limitation in this respect. It is preferred that the shape be appropriate to ensure that the underwater plasma discharge can be realized homogeneously and with a high reproducibility. The gap between the electrodes is set at 3 cm



as the standard value. A neutron detector n t shown in the figure with excellent electrical shielding to the discharge noise, etc., is set either inside or outside reacti n liquid (22). It is used for counting the dose of neutrons produced by the reaction.

As shown in Figure 4, for the control power source, multiple high-voltage-rating capacitors (25) C_1 - C_2 are set parallel to each other for applying a dc voltage of about 20 kV to electrode terminals (24). The positive (+) side is connected to the terminal of high-voltage-rating switch (26), and each capacitor (25) is kept in a charged state with a charging device, which is not shown in the figure. The control circuit is not limited to that shown in Figure 4. The following schemes may also be adopted: the pulse voltage applied to a pair of discharge electrodes (23) is switched by rotating the neutral terminal connected to the positive side of switch (26), and the voltage charged on capacitors (25) C_1-C_n is applied periodically in sequence over a prescribed period. Also, the charging voltage is not limited to 20 kV, and it can be adjusted appropriately corresponding to the ease of the underwater plasma discharge in reaction liquid (22).

For the nuclear fusion generator with the aforementioned configuration, as the pulse voltage is applied to electrode terminals (24), a breakdown of insulation of reaction liquid (22) takes place between electric discharge electrodes (23b), plasma (27) is formed in the water, and the charge in C₁ of capacitor (25) is consumed in the pulse discharge. Together with this plasma discharge, deuterium ions (deuterium nuclei, D) are

generated. In addition, as a pressure wave is formed in the discharge, the pressure leads to dissociation of heavy water, D_2O , to form deuterium ions ${}_1^2H^+$. The deuterium nuclei (D) in the ionic form then impinge on the surface of supporting electrode (23a) and are captured. As collision continues, reaction with another D, that is, a D-D reaction, takes place, leading to the nuclear fusion reaction in the form of formula (1) or (2). The nuclear fusion realized in this way is measured by counting the neutrons using the aforementioned neutron detector. It is found that the neutron yield is as high as tens to hundreds of times higher than the neutron yield of 0.3/sec obtained in the conventional method using the electrolysis scheme.

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating another application example of this invention. In this figure, the same parts as those in Figures 3 and 4, or corresponding parts, are represented by the same symbols (21-27), and they are not explained again. As shown in Figure 1, (29a) represents a pressure-isolating structural body made of fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) cylinder, which is set on discharge electrodes (23) appropriately to enclose electric discharge electrodes (23b) as a portion of discharge electrodes (23). In this case, FRP acts as an insulator between electrodes for discharge (23). At the same time, the region made of electrodes for discharge (23) and the cylinder of pressure-isolating structural body (29a) is formed in a nearly sealed state. In this case, one or more holes (30), which play an important role with respect to the nuclear fusion as will be elaborated later, are formed on the periphery of electric discharge electrode (23b) on supporting electrode (23a)

of discharge electrode (23) used as the cathode. Of course, pressure-isolating structural body (29a) made of FRP should be formed with sufficient strength and structure to withstand the increased pressure without rupture.

In the configuration shown in Figure 1, first of all, a high pulse voltage is applied on discharge electrode (23) via electrode terminals (24), and an underwater plasma discharge (27) takes place between electric discharge electrodes (23b). The heavy water in reaction liquid (22) is dissociated by plasma (27). The deuterium nuclei D (deuterium atoms in ionic state) formed in the dissociation of heavy water are accelerated towards the cathode. At the same time, due to the effect of pressure-isolating structural body (29a), the pressure of pressure wave (28) is higher than that which can be obtained when pressure-isolating structural body (29a) is absent as shown in The deuterium nuclei are also accelerated by this pressure wave (28), and they move selectively toward holes (30) with a high pressure gradient. They then make high-efficiency collisions on the surface of supporting electrode (23a), which is made of titanium, etc. In this way, the D-D reaction among the deuterium nuclei is enhanced. As a result, the neutron yield is increased by about an order of magnitude above that obtained in the case shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating yet another application example of this invention. In the application example shown in Figure 2, pressure-isolating structural body (29b) was made of a titanium cylinder, which was connected to discharge electrodes (23) with a strong insulator (31). This pressure-isolating structural body (29a) acts as the surface for

the D-D reaction. Consequently, in this case, there is no necessity to use titanium, etc., to form the surface of supporting electrodes (23a), as would be needed in the application examples shown in Figures 1 and 3. Instead, a conventional metal may be used. Also, for this configuration, the voltage applied on electrode terminals (24) can be lower, and the gap between electric discharge electrodes (23b) can be reduced to about 1/10 that in the application example shown in Figure 1. Although pressure-isolating structural body (29b) can be set on the ground potential, it is preferred that it be taken as midpoint ground, with 1/2 the voltage applied, that is, the midpoint voltage, taken as the ground voltage. With the same purpose as that in the application example shown in Figure 1, holes (30a) are set on the periphery of the region of generation of plasma (27) on pressure-isolating structural body (29b).

In the configuration shown in Figure 2, pressure wave (28) caused by plasma (27) irradiates in a direction almost at right angle to the direction of plasma (27) as shown in the figure. Nuclei of deuterium D generated in plasma (27) are accelerated by both the electric field and pressure wave (28), mainly pressure wave (28), towards holes (30a). Consequently, nuclear fusion takes place on the titanium surface of pressure-isolating structural body (29b) at a high efficiency, just as in the case shown in Figure 1.

In addition, as an application of the high thermal efficiency of the nuclear fusion generator of this invention, a heat exchanger may be annexed to the reaction vessel, and the power produced at night is used to charge up the capacitor for operation of this equipment. Also, application may be made for

hot water generator and other electric power reservoir equipment for realizing standardization/load-leveling of the demand on the electricity.

Effects of the invention

As explained in the above, according to this invention, a pair of discharge electrodes are set in the reaction liquid with heavy water used as the reactant, and a pressure-isolating structural body is set in the periphery of this pair of electric discharge electrodes. Consequently, the pressure of the pressure wave caused by the underwater plasma discharge between the aforementioned electrodes can be increased, and thus increased pressure is used for performing the D-D nuclear fusion. As a result, with a very simple configuration, the cross-sectional area of the D-D reaction can be increased to that in the case when there is no pressure-isolating structural body. Consequently, the neutron yield can be increased by as much as two orders of magnitude over that which can be realized in the conventional nuclear fusion equipment using electrolysis.

Brief explanation of figures

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating an application example of the nuclear fusion generator of this invention. Figure 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view of another application example of this invention. Figure 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view illustrating the prototype of the nuclear fusion device of this invention, with a

pressure-isolating structural body set in it. Figure 4 is a circuit diagram illustrating the circuit of the control p wer source for driving the equipment. Figure 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating the experimental setup of the low-temperature nuclear fusion reported in reference.

- 21, reaction vessel
- 22, reaction liquid
- 23, pair of discharge electrodes
- 23a, supporting electrode
- 23b, electric discharge electrode
- 24, electrode terminal
- 25, capacitor
- 26, switch
- 27, plasma
- 28, pressure wave
- 29a, 29b, pressure-isolating structural body
- 30, 30a, holes
- 31, insulating agent

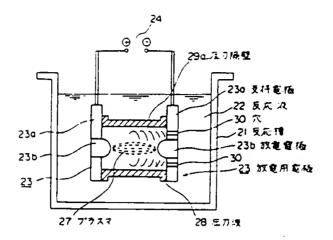


Figure 1

Reaction vessel Reaction liquid Key: 21 22

- 23
- 23a
- Pair of discharge electrodes Supporting electrode Electric discharge electrode 23b
- Plasma 27
- Pressure wave 28
- 29a Pressure-isolating structural body
- 30 Holes

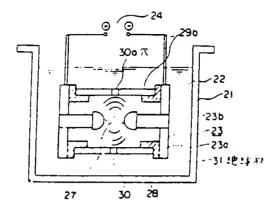
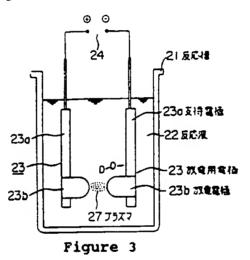


Figure 2

Key: 31 Insulating agent



- Key: 21
 - 22
 - 23
 - 23a
- Reaction vessel
 Reaction liquid
 Pair of discharge electrodes
 Supporting electrode
 Electric discharge electrode 23b
 - 27 Plasma

//insert Figure 4//

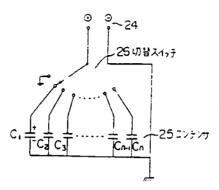


Figure 4.

Key: 1 25 Capacitor 26 Switch

//insert Figure 5//

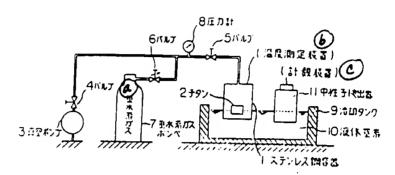


Figure 5

Stainless steel container Key: 1 2 Titanium 3 Vacuum pump 4, 5, 6 7 Det Valve Deuterium gas cylinder Pressure gauge 8 Cooling tank 9 Liquid nitrogen 10 Neutron detector 11

a Deuterium gasb Temperature measurement unit

c Counter